



American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law

One Regency Drive, P.O. Box 30 • Bloomfield, Connecticut 06002-0030
(860) 242-5450 (800) 331-1389 FAX (860) 286-0787

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

I am writing on behalf of the American Academy of Psychiatry and The Law, a national subspecialty organization of psychiatrists working at the interface of law and mental health. We wish to express support for the Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act, S. 3599.

This legislation will improve access to health care by directing the recapture of unused employment-based visas and expedite the approval of application.

We are aware that the U.S. healthcare system has long experienced shortages of psychiatrists and these shortages were predicted to grow over the next 10 years. We believe that the COVID-19 pandemic will both increase the rate of growth of the shortage and increase the number of patients who will be seeking treatment for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

International Medical Graduates (IMGs) make up about 30 percent of active psychiatrists. They are vital to care for those in underserved areas. Quick approval for S. 3599 will mean continued and timely access for those in need of treatment.

William Newman, MD
President